

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1960

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5108

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, IN, GE, PK

SUBJECT: GDR OFFER OF MODEST MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN

REF: NEW DELHI 694

1. WE HAVE LEARNED RELIABLY FROM THE PAKISTAN EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN THAT SOME TWO WEEKS BEFORE GDR DEFENSE MINISTER HOFFMAN'S DEPARTURE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA, I.E. IN LATE DECEMBER OF 1975, THE GDR OFFERED PAKISTAN A \$10 MILLION LOAN FOR THE ACQUISITION OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.

2. THE OFFER OF THIS LOAN WAS MADE BY THE FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY TO THE EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC COUNSELOR (THERE IS NO MILITARY ATTACHE), AND THE FIGURE OF \$10 MILLION WAS DESCRIBED AS AN INITIAL FIGURE SUBJECT TO AUGMENTATION. ALTHOUGH SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR PURCHASE WERE NOT SPECIFIED, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ASSUMPTION SEEMS TO BE THAT THE PAKISTANIS, WERE

THEY TO ACCEPT THIS LOAN, WOULD PURCHASE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURED IN THE GDR. THE TRADE MINISTRY OFFERED TO SEND AN EAST GERMAN DELEGATION TO PAKISTAN TO MAKE A SURVEY. THE PAKISTAN EMBASSY IN BERLIN HAS COUNSELED ITS FOREIGN MINISTRY AGAINST SUCH A VISIT PROPOSING, RATHER, THAT A PAKISTANI TEAM COME TO THE GDR IN ORDER TO DETERMINE HOW SUCH A LOAN MIGHT BE PUT TO USE IN LIGHT OF MILITARY REQUIREMENTS.

3. THE REACTION OF THE PAKISTAN EMBASSY TO THIS OFFER IS UNENTHUSIASTIC. THE AMOUNT ITSELF IS DESCRIBED AS VERY LITTLE AND THE GESTURE, OCCURRING JUST BEFORE HOFFMAN'S VISIT TO INDIA, IS SEEN AS A WEAK ATTEMPT AT BALANCE IN GDR POLICY TOWARD THE SUB-CONTINENT. THE EAST GERMAN REQUEST TO SEND A DELEGATION TO PAKISTAN IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN EFFORT TO INSPECT PAKISTANI MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, PARTICULARLY ALONG THE CHINESE BORDER. FOR THIS REASON, PRIMARILY, THE PAKISTAN EMBASSY HAS MADE ITS RECOMMENDATION FOR A REVERSAL OF DELEGATION VISITS.

4. EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS HAVE DESCRIBED TO THE PAKISTAN EMBASSY GDR DEFENSE MINISTER HOFFMAN'S RECENT TRIP TO INDIA AS A VISIT OF FRIENDSHIP. THE PAKISTAN EMBASSY SHARES THE VIEW HELD BY FRG OFFICIALS IN NEW DELHI, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, THAT THE INDIANS AND EAST GERMANS DEVOTED ATTENTION TO COOPERATION IN DEFENSE PRODUCTION. THE PAKISTAN EMBASSY BELIEVES, ON THE BASIS OF EVIDENCE NOT DESCRIBED TO US, THAT A DEAL FOR SUCH COOPERATION WAS IN FACT WORKED OUT IN ADVANCE OF THE HOFFMAN VISIT.

5. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE GDR'S OFFER OF \$10 MILLION IN CREDITS IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION IN ISLAMABAD. COOPER

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